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Reporter

NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Volume 2
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Project JUMP Boosts Youth Activity

Dr. Avery D. Faigenbaum of the Department of Human Performance and Fitness doesn't bite his tongue when it comes to youth fitness. "Kids today are fatter than ever," he says bluntly. He's not being cruel. He's merely stating a truth he has learned as a pediatric exercise physiologist.

Unlike many critics, however, Faigenbaum is doing something to fight obesity. When community leader Jeremiah Toomey approached him about starting a program, Faigenbaum created and organized the Junior Urban Movement Program (Project JUMP) at the Murphy School Community Center in Dorchester.

The program officially began in January. It is free and offered on a first-come, first-served basis to Dorchester youths ages eight to 14. Class periods are sequential, each lasting 10 weeks and held in one-hour sessions twice each week.

"Unlike competitive sports programs, Project JUMP is a community-based intervention designed to improve children's attitudes toward physical activity and reduce the incidence of physical inactivity among urban youth living in our local community," Faigenbaum said. "There are no losers in Project JUMP. Kids learn news skills and make friends."

While Faigenbaum and his staff are thinking of building self-esteem and confidence and documenting their techniques and findings, the 40 students running around in the Murphy School Community Center's gymnasium are simply having fun.

"Our hypothesis is that a community-based and developmentally appropriate youth activity program which includes quality instruction, motor skill development, fitness education and team leadership activities, will enhance children's attitudes toward physical activity, develop a

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Research Garner's Prestigious Award for Doctoral Candidate

The University Reporter

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Doreen Stern Gordon, a candidate in the McCormack Institute's Doctoral Program in Public Policy, is trying to answer some hard questions. Why, she asks, have third graders in some school districts in New Hampshire surged ahead in improving their scores on state-wide assessment tests, while third graders' scores from other school districts remained flat or declined over a four-year period?

It is a question to which many New Hampshire parents, educators, and state government officials would like to know the answer. Stern Gordon already has an inkling of what some of the answers might be. In fact, she has isolated 22 factors that may account for the differences, including teacher salaries, parental involvement, staff development opportunities, and kindergarten programs to name a few.

Stern Gordon's study garnered attention this fall when it tied for first place in the Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy Better Government Competition. She received her award, which comes with a grant from New Hampshire businesses, at an awards ceremony on January 22. She now plans to examine nine school districts in New Hampshire to try to discover what factors determine each school system's success at improving standardized testing scores of their pupils. Her study, prompted originally

by her daughter's experience in elementary school, is the subject of her dissertation for her Ph.D. She hopes to complete her work by Spring of 1999.

"People in New Hampshire are eager to find out what the results of this study will be," says Stern Gordon. "Because of the way New Hampshire funds education (the state relies heavily on property taxes), the likelihood is strong that this study will be used to promote change," she says.

Carole Upshur, director of the Doctoral Program in Public Policy, says that this study is an example of the the kind of work the program encourages its students to undertake. "We encourage students to pick policy issues that are current and vital, and Doreen has chosen a very important public policy dilemma that relates to how education is funded in New Hampshire," she says. "This is a perfect example of the kind of policy-relevant work our students address," she says.

Are you working on a research project you'd like the UMass Boston community to know about? Do you think someone else's research is worth mentioning? Let us know. Call the Office of Public Information at 7-5317 or 7-5319. Or send us an email:
univ_report@umb.sky.cc.umb.edu.

In Depth With Frank Caro & Ellen Bruce

Within the walls of the Gerontology Institute and Center, doctoral and certificate program students, researchers, program staff, and volunteers create a flood of activities. Overseeing all this energy is newly appointed director Frank Caro, long-time director of the Institute's research division and the Ph.D. program in gerontology, who has served as the Institute's acting director since 1996.

How are the goals of the Institute and Center evolving under new leadership? "Broadly speaking, the themes that the Institute developed in the early period are sound," says Caro. "The emphasis on productive aging is right. The gerontology program got off to a resounding start in 1979 with the Frank R. Manning Certificate program, and with more and more people retiring early, this will continue to be important," Caro says.

Statistics bear this out. Of the more than 500 people (median age 64) to have completed this one-year certificate program in gerontology, approximately 30% have used the certificate for paid employment, and approximately 43% have pursued volunteer work in the field of gerontology. These figures highlight the important roles that retired and elder citizens play in their communities.

Building further on the Ph.D. program is high on Caro's priority list. He believes that the doctoral program may be the

most ambitious undertaking of the Institute.

"Gerontology is a small field. We were the second university in the country to offer a doctoral program in social gerontology, and we have the potential to have great impact in the field by graduating Ph.D.'s. So it is important that we do it well." The challenge, he says, is to build the program with the limited resources at hand.

While Caro believes in building on existing strengths, he also believes that the research capacity of the Institute should be further expanded. "We should also develop the capacity to do more significant research, which will then allow us to attract more research funding," he says.

Caro recently received approval to advertise for three vacant positions within the Institute, and he expects to widen the Institute's research capacity by bringing in people who have strength in different research areas. Widening the research base of the Institute also provides necessary opportunities for doctoral students and others to gain knowledge and experience. "It is very important for research-oriented graduate students to have opportunities to gain experience, both because it is a training opportunity, and because the projects are important in and of themselves," say Caro.

Ellen Bruce, who has served as the Institute's acting associate

director, has also had her title made official recently. Bruce oversees the policy initiatives of the institute, including the Pension Assistance Program, the National Pension Lawyers Referral Service, and work on contracted policy-related publications. She is also responsible for planning forums and conferences, and she works closely with elected officials on gerontological issues.

"Frank and I complement each other—with his background in research and mine in policy. And while he leads the Institute, we work closely on administrative issues like the budget and personnel," says Bruce, who came to UMass Boston in 1988. She earned her law degree at Northeastern University, and a BA from Wellesley College.

Caro's past work experience is firmly grounded in research. "The continuity in my professional life comes from getting into evaluation research," he says. "For a long time, I've been interested in the connection between academic life, public policy, and social intervention programs," he says. Caro is a sociologist who earned his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, and a BS degree from Marquette University.

ECOS Professor Heads Effort to Build New Bedford Aquarium

A new aquarium complex is now taking shape in New Bedford. When it is completed, it will be one of the largest in the world, with a combined tank capacity of over 2 million gallons. One single tank alone will hold 1.2 million gallons. Apart from sheer size, it's four components—the Aquarium, the Explorium, The Center for Science Education and Economic Development (SEED), and a Large Format Film Theater (LFFT)—will make it unique among aquariums of the world.

Professor Robert Bowen of the ECOS program has lived in New Bedford for the last 14 years, and has been active there in community affairs. Several years ago, he was approached by the two co-founders of the aquarium project, Maureen Armstrong and Frederick Satkin, who asked him to join the aquarium project.

"My first response was 'Thanks, but I have a great job, and a full life,'" says Bowen. "And Satkin responded, 'Fine, I understand. Will you come and see the building?' I walked into the great room of the former COM/Electric power plant, which is 350 feet long and nine stories high, and I said, 'Ok, when do we start?' It is a building meant to be an aquarium," says Bowen, who is now executive director of the New Bedford Aquarium.

Bowen was won over by the unique opportunity to recycle an extraordinary building to a new use that would be particularly

well-suited to New Bedford. As an expert in integrated coastal management in urban harbor settings, he was able to see the unique potential in the COM / Electric building, with its site directly on the harbor. But it is also the opportunity to tell important stories of marine science in so many different ways that sustains his enthusiasm.

The four components of the project allow for many different ways to tell that story. The aquarium will be fitted to take visitors to polar, temperate, and tropical marine systems; The Center for Science Education and Economic Development (SEED) will support partnerships between university researchers and the private and public sectors to generate economic innovation and activity; the Explorium will provide visitors with interactive exhibits to promote understanding of how the latest developments in marine science result from exploration and discovery; and the Large Format Film Theater (LFFT) will take visitors to underwater places they could only imagine otherwise.

The Aquarium, with its projected attendance of 1,360,000 visitors annually, may also prove to be a catalyst for other development projects in New Bedford, including the expansion of the New Bedford Airport, new economic activity in downtown New Bedford, and rail service between Boston and New Bedford.

It may also provide UMass Boston faculty with more ways to do their job—by reaching out into the community to teach in the broadest sense. "Universities need to get better at telling their stories so that others understand them," says Bowen, who believes that the aquarium can facilitate that mission.

The project is presently in a very active stage—Bowen says that he expects there to be announcements on project funding within the next 60 days. (The cost of the project is expected to be \$124 million, which supporters hope will come entirely from private sources.)

Teaching in the ECOS program remains Bowen's primary job. Over the past several years, the number of graduate students he advises has ranged from a low of 7 to as many as 13. This semester, he is teaching a seminar on the role of science in the policy process.

In the end, Bowen expects that the aquarium will prove a resource—for New Bedford, for our University, and for the region—by establishing a place where the stories of marine science, of the ocean and the environment, can be told in many different ways.

Mentoring Program Aims to Create Leaders

Leadership is defined as the ability or capacity to lead. While it may be true that some individuals are "born to lead," more often it is the case that qualities of leadership are something people learn during the course of their lives. For some, there may be no better way to learn the qualities of leadership than to watch a leader in action.

The Leadership Development Program's goal is to recognize, inspire and nurture student leaders. It does this in a number of ways. Students who are accepted into the program participate in workshops on topics such as time management, conflict resolution, team building, group dynamics, public speaking and others. They also participate in a group community service project.

Perhaps most importantly, students in the program are paired with a mentor, either on campus or off, who is matched to their interests, and can help the student realize their potential and pursue their career goals. Together, they develop a plan of activities, and meet six to nine times during the course of the two-semester program.

Paul Martin is a political science major who expects to graduate in 1999. His professional goal is to work on political campaigns after graduation. Through the Mentoring Program, he was matched with UMass Trustee Peter Berlandi, whose professional experience includes political fund raising. Berlandi is presently a managing partner of

Custom House Associates, a business and political consulting firm. Martin began meeting with Berlandi in November.

"At our first meeting, we just got acquainted with one another, sharing information about our interests," says Martin. After a few meetings, Berlandi asked Martin if he would be interested in working with the Cellucci for Governor campaign, where Martin now works as an intern to James Connolly, the campaign finance director. "This is exactly the kind of work I want to do after graduating from college," says Martin, who plans to stay with the campaign until the November election.

Even though Martin is now busy working at Cellucci campaign headquarters and going to school full-time, he and Berlandi still get together regularly. "Technically, I suppose we wouldn't have to meet anymore, but we have a standing appointment to meet every other Monday morning. We have coffee, sit down and discuss what is going on in local politics. He's been very helpful to me with advice on events and people," says Martin.

"I like to hear Paul's opinions about current events," says Berlandi about his bi-weekly meetings with Martin. "It is important to know what's going on in the world, so I'll ask him about what he's read, and if we are discussing politics, he may ask me about behind-the-scenes maneuvering in some cases, because he knows that I've been

involved with politics as well as with business. I think he has learned to look at both sides of a story, which is very important," Berlandi says.

What motivates a busy man like Berlandi to spend time mentoring a student?

"I can still remember when I was a college student myself," says Berlandi. "And I would have appreciated an opportunity like this. If you can help a student understand what to expect after they graduate, I think that is very worthwhile. I know that sometimes a person will sometimes be more willing to listen to an outside influence than someone in their own family, so that is why I do it. This is a worthy program," he says.

Thirteen students are presently matched with mentors through the Student Leadership mentoring program. Altogether, 35 students have taken advantage of the mentoring portion of the program since its inception in 1995.

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Chancellor Penney to be Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

On February 4th, Chancellor Sherry Penney and six other accomplished women will be recognized by the Women's Network of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce with the Pinnacle Awards. These awards were established in 1994 to recognize women who have achieved excellence in business, management, and the professions.

Chancellor Penney will be honored with the Pinnacle Lifetime Achievement award. Other Pinnacle award winners are Jane C. Edmonds, President and CEO of Jane C. Edmonds and Associates, Inc. for achievement in business; Nancy L. Learning, President and CEO of Tufts Associated Health Plan, for achievement in management,

private sector; Mary Lou K. Crane, New England Director, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for achievement in management, government; Joanne K. Hilferty, President and CEO of Morgan Memorial Goodwill Services, for achievement in management, non-profit; Mary K. Ryan, Partner, Nutter, McClennen & Fish, LLP, for achievement in the professions; and Lisa K. Matthews, Principal, Phoenix Home Life Insurance Company, for the emerging executive award.

Keynote Speaker and Master of Ceremonies at the Pinnacle Awards luncheon, which will be held at the Sheraton Boston Hotel and Towers, is Virginia Cha, News Anchor, WBZ-TV4.

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Bell Atlantic's \$23K Innovator Grant Goes to Urban Scholars

UMass Boston's Urban Scholars Program has received a \$23,000 Innovator Grant from Bell Atlantic, which enables the program to continue integrating technology into its inquiry-based math/science and language arts/humanities curriculum.

The grant has been used to purchase seven Texas Instruments TI-83 graphing calculators with calculator based laboratory systems (CBLs). These calculators can be plugged into a variety of devices which collect data, and have the capacity to create graphs with the information. According to Michael Benway, a math and science mentor-teacher for the Urban Scholars Middle School Program, these calculators will enable students to create more sophisticated projects for the annual science fair.

Part of the Innovator Grant money will go towards training teachers in the use of new technologies, such as these calculators, to build their skills and knowledge. The grant will also be used to link, via telecommunications, Urban Scholar sites in Boston to their sister program in New York.

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Sculptures Continue to Rise on Campus

A 12-foot, 500-pound fiberglass steelworker created by internationally acclaimed sculptor Luis Jimenez of New Mexico is the latest addition to the University's Arts on the Point sculpture park.

"The Steelworker" was raised on a platform outside the corner where the Science building and Wheatley and McCormack Halls

meet on January 14. Originally commissioned by the City of Buffalo, New York, the city reneged on its agreement, which triggered the sculpture's recent travels to cities around the country. It is the second sculpture to take its place on campus grounds, joining "Huru" which was installed in December.

Trustees Meeting Takes Place on Campus February 4

The University's Board of Trustees will meet on February 4 in the Chancellor's Conference Room, third floor, Quinn Administration Building. This meeting is open to the public, and will start at 9:15 a.m.

The agenda for the meeting includes two issues on which the

Board will vote: appointments to named professorships at UMass Amherst, and fiscal year 1999 tuition and fee rates. Other business includes reports of the Chair of the Board, the President, and various committees, including the audit reports of the Division of Continuing Education and WUMB-FM radio.

Reviewers Sought for Laboratory Reform Proposal

The Laboratory Consortium for Environmental Excellence (LCEE) is seeking individuals to review and comment on a proposal submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. The proposal, which outlines an alternative model for university laboratory compliance with hazardous waste management guidelines, was prepared by representatives of the Consortium's eight member institutions.

The LCEE was founded to address the issues faced by university laboratories, which are required to comply with numerous environmental health and safety laws that were created to address the hazardous waste issues of industrial and manufacturing laboratories.

If you are interested in reviewing the proposal, contact Zehra Schneider Graham, environmental coordinator, Environmental Health & Safety Office, at 7-5445 by February 9.

AIDS Quilt Comes to Clark Center in April

After several months of hard work by the AIDS Memorial Quilt Committee, UMass Boston has been selected by the Names Project Foundation to display the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. From April 23-25, the Quilt will be on display in the Clark Athletic Center. The exhibit will be open to the public, and several events are scheduled while the Quilt is at UMass Boston.

The AIDS Quilt in its entirety is now 44,000 panels. The portion of the Quilt we will have on display is 960 panels. The panels will be regional, representing AIDS victims from the New England area. If anyone on campus would like to request a particular panel for the display, please contact Steven Cicirelli at 7-7983.

Labor's Public Policy Agenda to be Unveiled at March Forum

The Labor Resource Center and the Massachusetts AFL-CIO are sponsoring a forum, "Work and Family, Putting People First: Unveiling Labor's 1998 Public Policy Agenda" on Wednesday, March 4. The forum will be held at the Kennedy Library, and will feature guest speakers President William Bulger, Chancellor Sherry Penney, Clyde Barrows of UMass Dartmouth, and Paul Harrington and Karl Klare of Northeastern University.

A light supper will be provided at 5:30 p.m., and the program will begin at 6:15 p.m. Seating is limited. For a reservation, contact the Labor Resource Center at 7-7426.

Publications

Sociology lecturer **Madeleine Cousineau's** book, *Terra Prometida*, has been published by Paulinas Press of Brazil.

Russell Schutt, chair of the sociology department, has written a student workbook to accompany his research methods text book, *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research*. It is published by Pine Forge Press.

The **Trotter Institute** has issued a guide to articles, research reports, occasional papers and abstracts of issues of the Trotter Review published between 1985 and 1997. To receive a copy, contact the Trotter Institute at 7-5580.

Conferences and Presentations

Harlyn Halvorson, director of the Policy Center for Marine Biosciences and Technology, gave the keynote address, "Regionalizing our Knowledge about New England Marine Resources," at a conference, *Aquaculture, Marine Sciences and Oceanography: Exploring the New England Confluence*. The conference was held on Nov. 13 at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Woods Hole, MA.

Carol DeSouza will be the keynote speaker at the Forum on Postsecondary Program and Service Issues, sponsored by the Disability Resource Network of British Columbia, Canada. She will also present workshops during the forum, which will be held Feb. 17-20 in Vancouver.

Zelda Gamson, Cathy Burack and **Deb Hirsch** of NERCHE

made a panel presentation, "Strengthening and Sustaining Faculty Professional Service: Structures, Skills and Stories" at the American Association of Higher Education Forum on Faculty Roles and Rewards conference in Orlando, Florida, Jan. 29-Feb. 1.

NERCHE Director **Zelda Gamson** and GCOE Professor **Peter Kiang** were members of an invited panel on civic life and public service at the Association of American Colleges and Universities national meeting in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 16. At another session at the same meeting, Gamson and **Sandra Kanter** presented their work on general education based on their book, *Revitalizing General Education in a Time of Scarcity*.

Prof. **Lloyd Schwartz** of the English department reads two of his poems, "A True Poem" and "He Tells His Mother What He's Working On," on a new poetry compact disc, *One Side of the River*. He also reads a previously unpublished poem, "Birthday Song," by late poet Elizabeth Bishop.

Art Prof. **Anne McCauley** spoke at a symposium organized by the Bibliothèque nationale de France at the new François Mitterand library in Paris. Her paper, "L'art ne doit pas avoir plus de sexe que les mathématiques": Les débats sur la représentation du nu sous le Second Empire," was part of the symposium, "L'art du nu au XIXe siècle, entre vérité et obscénité," organized in conjunction with an exhibition, "Le photographe et son modèle," on display at the Bibliothèque nationale.

Prof. **Michael Chesson** of the history department attended

the annual convention of the American Historical Association in Seattle, Washington, in January. He participated in a working session and luncheon on the topic of the future of tenure.

Dr. **Orlando Taylor**, dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Howard University, will consult with campus groups on hiring, retaining and supporting faculty and graduate students of color on February 18. His visit is hosted by the **Office of Graduate Studies**.

Honors and Appointments

Prof. **John F. Looney Jr.** of the geography department has been invited to review geoscience and biology proposals for the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program of the Department of Education, February 16-20 in Washington, D.C.

McCormack Institute Research Fellow **Robert Bucci** has been reappointed to the Providence, R.I. School Board for a three year term by Mayor Vincent Cianci.

Sociology Prof. **Russell Schutt** has been elected secretary of the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS). He will serve for 3 years on the ESS executive board, beginning in March, 1998.

Albert P. Cardarelli, senior fellow at the McCormack Institute, has been appointed to the National Policy Committee of the American Society of Criminology.

CPCS Prof. **Connie Chan**, co-director of the Institute for Asian American Studies, has been appointed an associate editor of *Professional Psychology: Research and*

Practice, a journal of the American Psychological Association, for a six year term.

Portions of Prof. **Philip S. Hart's** film, "Fliers in Search of a Dream" provides biographical information on three pioneering black aviators, Bessie Coleman, William Powell, and Benjamin Davis, for an interactive museum exhibit, "Flight: Where Adventures Take Off." Now in its fourth year of touring museums across the country, the exhibit opens at the Fort Worth Museum in Texas on February 3.

In the News...

On Jan. 2, Prof. **Richard Hogarty** was interviewed by WBZ-TV4 news on the death of Michael Kennedy, and on January 4, on the political future of Representative Joseph Kennedy.

Chancellor Sherry H. Penney's editorial, "The Education of Citizens," appeared in the *Boston Globe* on Jan. 16.

Dissertation Defense

Kamal Hijazi, doctoral candidate in gerontology, gave his dissertation defense on Dec. 11. The title of his dissertation is "Factors Contributing to Variations in Medicare Home Health Agency Services Utilization Among Aged Medicare Beneficiaries: Testing Alternate Models."

Note of Thanks

The **Disabled Student Club** would like to thank the University community for its generosity and support during the bake sale and clothing drive for the Pine Street Inn. Clothing donations may still be dropped off at the Ross Center

Mural Peaks Semester of Class Reflection

Students in the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS) signed up for the "Multicultural Art Project" last semester to earn competencies in the arts. By December, they were not only closer to their degrees, but they knew a little more about themselves, diversity, and images that are personally meaningful. As an added bonus, they got to work with a well-known practicing artist on a unique project soon to be displayed on campus.

"The approach was to generate ideas for a mural that I will paint with assistance from the students," said Wen-ti Tsen, course instructor and 35-year practicing artist. Tsen creates mostly public art, often in the form of murals and sculptures. Several of his murals can be seen in the Chinatown section of Boston.

"We spent about 10 weeks going through the process of understanding what each person comes from," Tsen said. "From the beginning to the end, people went through a lot of different experiences.

"At first, it seemed like group therapy," Tsen said. "They revealed very painful struggles in their lives and were very forthcoming in presenting their rather deep thoughts."

The 10 students from diverse backgrounds were assigned to bring in objects and symbols that represent their culture. Expecting

objects that would identify cultural or ethnic backgrounds, Tsen said he was surprised by the results. "Most people chose to identify what their chosen affinity was," he said.

Some objects he saw identified with certain life experiences, being gay or lesbian, and overcoming addictions. "The class was structured in such a way that I was eliciting ideas from people that would go beyond what I would consider the first level of diversity."

In addition to bringing in objects, students told and wrote personal stories and interviewed family members and people they perceived to be very different from themselves.

The mural will be 8 feet by 16 feet. After much reflection, class members decided to compose the mural of life-size portraits of themselves. "The reason we chose portraits is that people are so important in their representation," Tsen said. The objects brought to class will also be incorporated, as well as the viewer, who will be reflected in the mirrors on which the portraits will be painted.

Tsen, who has taught at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, where he also studied, said last semester was a unique experience for him. He believes the class experience was empow-

ering for his students as well. "At the end of the class there seemed to be a real sense of cohesion," he said.

Tsen and students will work on the mural each Tuesday and Thursday through March from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the fourth floor of the Wheatley Building. All are welcome to stop by, Tsen said. (Check with the CPCS receptionist for room number.)

"I learned a lot from the people and the experiences that they went through. I'm quite excited about painting the people," Tsen said.

The course was funded by a \$50,000 Campus Diversity Cultural Resource Initiative grant administered by the American Festival Project and funded by the Ford Foundation. The grant has also funded drumming events and art exhibits on campus.

The University Reporter can spread the word about your department, center or institute's newsworthy endeavors. Send email to: univ_report@umbcc.edu.

EBTC Plays Key Role in Mercury Reduction

The Environmental Business and Technology Center (EBTC) is working closely with the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA), local businesses and three area hospitals to reduce the amount of mercury being pumped into local waters.

Housed in the College of Management, the EBTC mercury reduction project is also in partnership with the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the Massachusetts Office of Business Development.

"Mercury is probably the most toxic heavy metal pollutant," said David Cooper, program manager/technology analyst of the EBTC. Toxic when breathed (as a gas), absorbed (as a liquid through skin contact) or ingested (eaten in contaminated fish and other foods), mercury can cause blurred vision, hearing loss, slurred speech, kidney failure and other ailments.

According to a December report issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an estimated 158 tons of mercury were emitted as a result of human activities in the U.S. in 1994-1995. About 87 percent of these emissions are from combustion sources, such as waste and fossil fuel combustion, the report said. Among the specific source categories, medical waste incinerators account for 10 percent of the total mercury emitted due to human activity, the study said.

The EPA has set mercury emission limits for municipal waste combustors and medical waste incinerators. When fully implemented, these limits will "reduce mercury emissions from these sources by an additional 90 percent over 1995 levels," the report reads.

To comply with regulations, organizations must often adopt expensive equipment and procedures. With this in mind, the EBTC has set out to assist hospitals in finding ways to decrease the amounts of mercury emitted as close to the source as possible.

The EBTC works with Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Tufts Human Nutrition Research Center (of the New England Medical Center), and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

"This project will help the campus showcase its expertise," said William Brah, EBTC director. The EBTC works with other campus departments, including Chemistry, Environmental Sciences, and Management. "We routinely analyze mercury levels in water. We're the only place in the region to do this," Brah said.

In addition to working with hospitals, the EBTC has established a unique position of bringing into the picture small businesses that offer mercury reduction technology. This

inclusion helps solidify the companies' footing in the commonwealth's \$6 billion environmental industry. Prospective participants include the following: ICET of Norwood; SolmeteX of Walpole; Aqua Terra Aero of Cleveland, Ohio; Prosys of North Billerica; and Dubois Chemicals of Providence, R.I.

The EBTC has brainstormed extensively with the MWRA and the Office of Technical Assistance. "They turned to us, because they knew we worked with companies that have solutions to their problems," Brah said.

"They also felt that we had expertise within the university ... in terms of objectively looking at the problem and in a design sense," Cooper added.

Working closely with the EBTC are Gordon Wallace of Environmental, Coastal and Ocean Sciences and Bhatt Vadlamani of Management and Marketing.

Urban Scholars Aims to Increase Family Involvement in Education

The Urban Scholars Program is trying to get parents more involved in their children's education.

Through the newly formed Urban Scholars Family Partnership Program, parents with children enrolled in the program for academically talented students are seeing more newsletters, progress reports, and invitations to open houses.

"We're doing a lot of things to try to get them more involved," said John Fife, Family Partnership coordinator. A 1996 graduate of UMass Boston, Fife said a "nice variety" of parents are involving themselves with the program.

"It's real clear to us that the stronger the partnership with the families, the more successful kids will be," said Joan Becker, executive director of the Urban Scholars Program.

The program is rethinking traditional approaches to parent partnerships, Becker said. Instead of inviting parents to attend meetings, for example, Urban Scholars formed a Family Partnership Action Team. Comprised of parents, students, teachers and staff members, the action team meets quarterly to assess present practices, identify and implement new partnership activities, evaluate new steps, and work to continue improving and coordinating partnership activities.

Some of the action team's short term goals are already being met.

"The Family Times," a monthly newsletter, provides program news, offers tips to boost children's learning, and showcases student accomplishments and creativity. Parents are also getting more involved in field trips. Several parents signed up to chaperon the group's trip to see "Miss Saigon." In addition, parents are attending orientations and receiving weekly progress reports.

The students don't seem to have a problem spending time with their parents, Fife said. In fact, they have planned a Parent Gala, to be held Feb. 8 on the 11th floor of Healey Library.

Urban Scholars is also utilizing parents in setting long-term goals. "We're really taking a look at our curriculum," Becker said of one long-term plan. The program is reviewing its standards and statements of expectations of what students should know and be able to do, she said. In addition, staff members are weighing the possibility of holding individual counseling sessions with students and their parents.

Also as a service to parents, Urban Scholars offers workshops on topics such as financial aid and provide information on issues such as parenthood and adult education, Fife said.

Becker hopes the family partnership program will help schools, in addition to students in the program. "As we find things that work in terms of strengthening our partnerships with families, we

want to share that with our partner schools," she said.

The Urban Scholars Family Partnership Program is made possible with funds from a three-year, \$881,962 grant awarded to the Urban Scholars program by the Jacob Javits Gifted and Talented Student Program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Int'l Council Announces Spring 1998 Colloquia

The International Council's Spring 1998 Colloquia, "Urban Mission — International Focus: A Contraction or a Continuum," will take place in the Faculty Club from 2:30–4:30 p.m.

These events follow: **Feb. 19** Hubie E. Jones, "The Importance of Cities: A Global Perspective;" **March 19**, Leonard H. Robinson Jr., "Global Exposure and Education: A Critical Nexus," **April 16**, James Jennings, "Globalization and Its Impact on Race Relations and Divisions in the United States," **May 14**, Peter Kiang, "Immigrant Leadership and Global/Local Strategies for Curriculum and Community Development," **May 21**, Ramona Hernandez, "Immigration to the U.S. in the Age of International Transformation."

The International Council establishes priorities, develops policies and reviews new programs and institutional agreements pertaining to international studies.

Project JUMP

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bona fide sense of self-esteem, confidence and self-fulfillment among participants, and improve selected measures of physical fitness," Faigenbaum said.

"Kids don't even realize it, but they're having fun, and too, they're getting fit," he said.

Exercise physiology majors, physical education majors and members of the UMass Boston Human Performance and Fitness Club work as project leaders (teaching classes) or researchers (collecting data). Like the children they are motivating, most of the project leaders live in Dorchester. The students' commitment to Project JUMP is evident, Faigenbaum said. Not only did they show up for Project JUMP during semester break in January, but they were also well prepared with lesson plans and noncompetitive activities. "The instruction from the UMass Boston students is phenomenal," Faigenbaum said.

He talks about evaluating the success of Project JUMP. "What I'm looking for is how many kids are moving during an activity," he said. When reflecting on a

day's activities, Faigenbaum simply asks project leaders two questions: "Did you make the kids move?" and "Did you make them laugh?"

Project JUMP is funded by a Public Service Grant from UMass Boston and a grant from the Massachusetts Governor's Committee on Physical Fitness and Sports. The program requires little overhead. It utilizes the gymnasium and some equipment of the Murphy School Community Center. UMass Boston students volunteer and, starting this semester, some can earn academic credits for their work with the program.

"Our goal is to create a program of proven efficacy that is community-based and can be replicated at low cost by other community centers," Faigenbaum said. "Our long-term goal is to reduce the incidence of physical inactivity among children and adolescents living in an urban community."

If you know of outstanding community service being performed through UMass Boston, tell us. We'd love to write about it.

Recent Quarterly Grant Receipts Top \$2 Million

The Office of Sponsored Projects reports that during the period from November 14, 1997 to January 14, 1998, the University received 44 awards for a total of \$2,039,093 from public and private sources.

Notable grants include \$100,000 to Prof. Robert Chen of the ECOS program for his study of dissolved organic matter in coastal waters; \$100,000 to Prof. Joseph Check for the Boston Writing Project; \$300,000 to Floyd Fowler of the Center for Survey Research for a consumer assessment of health plans; and \$199,385 to Brian Clarridge of the Center for Survey Research for a Division of Medical Assistance cultural competencies study.

In Memoriam, Psychology Professor Ina Samuels

Professor Ina Samuels of the psychology department died on January 25. A member of the faculty since 1972, Prof. Samuels, who specialized in physiological and biological psychology, received her bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago and her doctorate from the University of Michigan. Among students she mentored were many who went on to successful careers in psychology and other fields. Prof. Samuels was 70.